

Exodus 16

Respect the Word

- Song of Moses/Song of Miriam
- Bitter Waters made Sweet

Exodus 15:27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

I. Bread from Heaven

1 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the **Wilderness of Sin**, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

- **2 Million People:** Men, Women, Children, Mixed multitude to Promised Land
- Leave Elim for Wilderness of Sin [Zin] then to Sinai to receive the Law

2 ...the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

Exodus thus far: Only 1½ months after leaving Egypt:

1. **Ch. 12:** Leave Egypt for Promised Land
2. **Ch. 13:** Lord goes before them...
 - Leading/Guiding: Pillar of Cloud by day/Pillar of fire by night
 - **Grace:** Guides them away from enemies
3. **Ch. 14:**
 - Pharaoh and army draw near trapping Israel
 - Complain against Lord: Not enough graves in Egypt?
 - **Grace:** Miraculous delivery crossing Red Sea
4. **Ch. 15:** Moses/Miriam Victory Song to the Lord
 - No water three days/Come to Marah; i.e. water is bitter
 - Complained against Moses/Lord ["sing the Desert Blues JVM"]
 - **Grace:** Bitter waters made sweet and drinkable by a Tree
 - **More grace:** Elim; 12 wells of water/70 Palm trees/Camp there
5. **Ch. 16:**

**Again, the whole congregation of Israel begins to complain
Reminiscing/Romancing about the "picnic" they had in Egypt...**

3 And the children of Israel said to [Moses/Aaron], "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full!"

- **Remembering the good times in Egypt:** Rose Colored Glasses

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| 1. Slave Rations | Now Pots of Tri-Tip/All you can Panera Bread |
| 2. Tyranny of Pharaoh | Now Loving Father figure |

3. Bondage

At least were fully employed; 100% employment

- **Remembering the “good times” in the world**

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| 1. Drinking all night throwing up: | Good times with friends |
| 2. Sex leading to disease/abortion/broken lives: | Free spirited/liberated |
| 3. Addicted to drugs, porn, gossip: | Unencumbered by God’s law |

- If we remembered our past clearly we would be ashamed:

Romans 6:20 ...when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Danger:** *Tasting of the Lord* but not being all in...

2 Peter 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

- **Lots wife:** Turned back to Sodom and became a pillar of the community
- **Israel:**
 1. Did not remember clearly what they had come out of; i.e. **Bondage**
 2. Did not see clearly where God was bringing them into; **Promised Land**

Focusing on their current difficult situation: Grass was much greener before. **Really?**

3b...you [Moses] have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

- **Your plan was always to kill us:** Satan tempts us to question the motives of God

Genesis 3:1 [Satan] said to the woman, “Has God **indeed** said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, **nor shall you touch it**, lest you die.’”

- **Buying into Satan’s lie:** God doesn’t want your best. Moses wants to kill everybody

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, **I will rain bread** from heaven for you.

- **God’s response:** Long-suffering? I will send “bread from heaven”
- Moses will later ask God to reveal Himself in a new way:

Exodus 34:5 ...the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with [Moses] there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, **longsuffering**, and abounding in goodness and

truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by **no means clearing the guilty...**

Matthew 5:44 [God] makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Because God is kind to you does not mean you are right with God

4b...And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. 5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

▪ **Instructions on gathering God's provision:**

1. People go out every morning
2. Gather a specified amount [to test their obedience]
3. Get twice daily amount on the Friday to use on Saturday

6 Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt. 7 And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord; for He hears your complaints against the Lord. But **what are we, that you complain against us?**" 8 Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full

- **Meat in Evening:** Know that the Lord has brought you out of Egypt
- **Bread in Morning:** You shall see the glory of the Lord

8b...for the Lord hears your complaints which you make **against Him**. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord.

- You complain against the Lord
- Careful about griping about the church, leaders, etc.

9 Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, '**Come near** before the Lord, for **He has heard** your complaints.'" 10 Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

▪ **Shekinah Glory reminding Israel Who they are complaining against**

11 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 12 "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

- **Tell them:** I have heard their complaints...none the less I will bless them?
 1. Meat at Night
 2. Bread in Morning ["Quail on Toast" JVM]
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13 So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. 14 And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "**What is it?**" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. 16 This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'"

- **Manna:** Lit. "What is it?"
- **Men** are to gather for their family
- One omer per person: Cupful to Gallon

17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. 18 So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. 19 And Moses said, "**Let no one leave any of it till morning.**"

- God's Daily Provision
- Manna speaks of Word of God

Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

- Manna also speaks of the Living Word of God

John 6:32 "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true **bread from heaven**. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

- Don't leave any till morning *so you can sleep in*

20 Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. 21 So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

- **Some tried keep the bread too long:**
 1. Worms eating it up
 2. Stench of not being fresh

Sunday is not enough. The Word will lose its freshness.
We need Daily Bread. Personal Bread

- **Some were lazy in getting bread:** Learned their lesson the hard way

22 And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered **twice as much bread**, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. 23 Then he said to them, "This is what the Lord has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.'" 24 So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. 25 Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. 26 Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none." 27 Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.

- No bread found on the Sabbath
- Some looked and failed another test of obedience and trust

...but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, **there will be none**

28 And the Lord said to Moses, "How long **do you refuse to keep My commandments** and My laws? 29 See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."

How long do you Moses refuse to keep My commands?

- **Moses get the brunt: Part of being a Spiritual Leader**
 1. Pastors are always to blame when things fall apart in a Church
 2. Pastors can never take credit when things go well in a Church

Moses...you are responsible for the people I have given you to shepherd!

30 So the people rested on the seventh day. 31 And the house of Israel called its name **Manna**. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

- **Angel Food:** Psalm 78:25
 1. Color was White like pearls
 2. Size of Coriander [Sesame seeds]
 3. Taste like honey-wafers
 4. Cooking Instructions: Baked or Boiled

32 Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" 33 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations." 34 As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony,

to be kept.

- **Lord previously told Moses:**

1. Fill a pot with one man-days worth of Manna
2. Keep it to be put in the Ark of the Covenant built later

35 And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. 36 Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah.

- **Gathered in mornings:** Good work ethic instilled
- Ate Manna 40 Years until ***their children*** entered the Promised land

God's "Instruction by Hunger" to Trust in Him

Deuteronomy 8:3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

SUMMARY Bread from Heaven